

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 7, 9-12, 15, 19 and 20 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response because:

- (1) the amendments of claims 1, 4, 7, 9-12, 15, 19 and 20 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised relative to the existing claims and/or in U.S. patent application no. 10/806,318; and
- (2) the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

JUDICIALLY CREATED DOCTRINE OF OBVIOUSNESS TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING:

On pages 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over selected claims of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/806,318. Since U.S. Patent Application No. 10/806,318 has not yet been issued as a patent, and since claims 1-20 of the instant application have not yet been indicated as allowable, it is believed that any submission of a Terminal Disclaimer or arguments as to the non-obvious nature of the claims would be premature. MPEP 804(I)(B). As such, it is respectfully requested that applicants be allowed to address any obviousness-type double patenting issues remaining once the rejections of the claims are resolved.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action at pages 5-6, the Examiner rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in

view of Maeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,144,601). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

By way of review, Maeda et al. suggests using a laser to heat domains and magnetically imparts information in the heated domain on a magneto-optical memory medium. As such, Maeda et al. does not suggest optically recording the data. However, even assuming arguendo Maeda et al. teaches optically recording data, Maeda et al. discloses that the data is magnetically written after the laser heats a writable domain using a continuous write beam W and erases previous marks using the laser to heat the erase domain according to a pulse erase beam E. As shown in FIG. 3D and 4D, the pattern for the pulsed erase beam E begins and ends at a low power and does not begin with the high power. Further, there is no suggestion of a power level of a pulse in the erase domain being used in the write domain W. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Maeda et al. does not disclose or suggest, among other features, "a power level of a leading pulse of the erase pattern being a high level of the multi-pulse and a power level of a pulse between an end point of the erase pattern and a start point of a leading pulse of the recording pattern being a high level of the multi-pulse" as recited in claim 19.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action at pages 6-13 and 15-16, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 9-14, 16-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Ichihara (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,792). The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

On pages 7-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Ichihara does not suggest an erase pattern in which a leading pulse is a low power level, and a trailing pulse is of a high power level. However, the Examiner asserts that such a modification would have been obvious since Ichihara suggests using other power levels lower than the recording level Pa, and especially since Ichihara suggests in col. 11, lines 16-25 that one needs to consider the properties of the recording layer and the laser in order to determine the appropriate level.

Even assuming arguendo Ichihara suggests using other power levels as asserted by the Examiner, Ichihara does not suggest using an erase pattern with a different pattern as opposed to power levels for the same pattern. Thus, Ichihara does not suggest a high power trailing pulse in combination with a low power lead pulse or low power lead and trailing pulses.

As is evident from FIGs. 3 and 4 as explained in cols. 8 - 9, the multiple pulses are used to more accurately form erasures. As shown, when initiating an erasure, Ichihara suggests alternating between high and low pulse powers P_{c1}, P_{c2} in order to alternately promote

crystallization growth and nuclei formation. Ichihara teaches that the alternating powers Pc_1 , Pc_2 are due to the different temperatures at which crystals grow and nuclei are generated as shown in FIG. 3. By starting off with a high pulse Pc_1 during the initial period T_{c1} as shown in FIG. 4, nuclei are formed and then grown in order to ensure an accurate beginning to the erasure. Moreover, by ending at the low pulse Pc_2 , the erasure ends more accurately without extending into the adjacent mark. As such, this pattern is consistent with the desired temperature profile C shown in FIG. 4. As set forth in col. 9, lines 25-31, this pattern as shown in FIG. 1B is used in order "to ensure the effects of the present invention."

Therefore, assuming arguendo that different levels for Pc_1 and Pc_2 can be used, Ichihara does not suggest changing the pattern such that the first pulse should be at a low power level Pc_2 (thereby delaying the initiation of the erasure pattern) or that the last pulse be at a high power level Pc_1 (thereby extending the erasure pattern into the adjacent mark).

Further, while not labeled in FIG. 1B or specifically discussed in the specification, a pulse before a first one of the recording pulses has a level which is below the power level Pc_1 (and appears to be P_c) and is above a level of the power level Pc_2 , and increases into a second pulse having a level of P_a . As such, the power level of this pulse is shown as less than the first pulse of the erase signal having the power level Pc_1 and more than the power level Pc_2 of the erase signal.

In contrast, claim 1 recites, among other features, "a power level of a leading pulse of the erase pattern being a low level of the multi-pulse and a power level of a pulse between an end point of the erase pattern and a start point of a leading pulse of the recording pattern being a high level of the multi-pulse."

As such, Ichihara does not suggest and teaches away from using the invention as recited in claim 1, and similarly does not suggest the features of claims 4 and 20.

As a general matter, in order to establish a *prima facie* obviousness rejection, the Examiner needs to provide both the existence of individual elements corresponding to the recited limitations, and a motivation to combine the individual elements in order to create the recited invention. Both the individual elements and the motivation need to be shown to have existed in the prior art. Should the Examiner fail to provide evidence that either one of the individual elements or the motivation does not exist in the prior art, then the Examiner has not provided sufficient evidence to maintain a *prima facie* obviousness rejection of the claim. MPEP 2143.03. Thus, the burden is initially on the Examiner to provide evidence as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the individual elements to create

the recited invention, and to demonstrate that this evidence existed in the prior art. MPEP 2143.01.

As an example, MPEP 2143.01 refers to In re Kotzab, 55 USPQ2d 1313 (Fed. Cir. 2000). In In re Kotzab, the Federal Circuit agreed with the Patent Office and the Examiner that the prior art, as a whole, disclosed each of the individual elements of the recited invention, which was an injection molding machine. However, the Federal Circuit held that "a rejection [for obviousness] cannot be predicated on the mere identification in [one of the prior art references] of individual components of the claimed limitations." Instead, the Federal Circuit held that "particular findings must be made as to the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these components for combination in the manner claimed." Id. at 1317. As such, in order to establish a prima facie obviousness rejection of a claim, the Examiner needs to both provide this particular evidence of the motivation to make the combination, and show that this evidence existed in the prior art. MPEP 2143.01. Such documentation is required in order provide evidence of record. C.f. In re Zurko, 59 USPQ2d 1693 (Fed. Cir. 2001) (no evidence in the prior art disclosing that the combination would have been "basic knowledge" or "common sense," and that the Board "must point to concrete evidence in the record to support these findings.") It is respectfully submitted that, even assuming arguendo that Ichihara suggests using other power levels for the shown pulse in FIG. 1B, Ichihara does not suggest altering the overall erasure pattern shown in FIG. 1B such that there remains insufficient evidence as to why one skilled in the art would alter the pattern shown in FIG. 1B of Ichihara in a manner required to meet the features of the recited invention.

Indeed, the Examiner's suggestion in regards to at least claims 1 and 4 requires a complete reversal of the pattern shown in FIG. 1B, which would appear to adversely affect the desired temperature profile C shown in FIG. 4 by delaying the growth of nuclei and otherwise shifting the profile C in a manner not suggested by Ichihara.

As such, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5, 9-14, 16-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 under Ichihara.

On page 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ichihara in view of Ushiyama et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0176338). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies upon Ichihara as disclosing an erase pattern with a space formed by erase pulses, but admits that Ichihara does not suggest a first one of the recording pulses being altered according to a property of a last one of the erase

pulses. However, the Examiner relies upon Ushiyama et al. as teaching using a first recording pulse optimized according to the property of a space in front of the recording pattern as described in paragraph 0049.

By way of review, Ushiyama et al. teaches determining optimum first and last recording pulse widths in response to a length of the resulting space before/after the recording mark. As shown in FIG. 7, the optimized width for each pattern 1, 2 of space and mark is where the jitter is at a minimum. However, other than using the entire space width to determine an optimal pulse width for the specific pattern, Ushiyama et al. does not suggest that components of the space should be used.

Further, while Ichihara teaches forming erasures of specific lengths using multiple pulses, there is no suggestion that the widths of the individual pulses in the erase pattern are affected by the change in erasure length as opposed to reducing or increasing the number of pulses used to create the appropriate erasure length. Thus, the properties of the pulses themselves are independent of erasure length, and there is no suggestion of the criticality of the last pulse as asserted by the Examiner on page 13. As such, even assuming arguendo that the combination is proper, the combination teaches adjusting a width of the pulses of Ushiyama et al. according to an overall erasure length for an erasure created using the pulses having levels Pc_1 , Pc_2 of Ichihara, where the pulses have constant properties regardless of the erasure length.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that there is insufficient evidence that the combination discloses or suggests, among other features, that "the generating unit adjusts a pulse of the recording pattern according to a pulse of the multi-pulse of the erase pattern" as recited in claim 6.

On pages 13-14 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ichihara in view of Clark et al. (U.S. 5,802,031). The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Even assuming arguendo that the Examiner's characterization of Clark et al. is correct, the Examiner does not rely upon Clark et al. as curing the above-noted deficiency of Ichihara as applied to claims 1 and 4. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination similarly does not suggest the features of claims 7 and 8.

In the Office Action at pages 14-15, the Examiner rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Ichihara and Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,742). The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Even assuming arguendo that the Examiner's characterization of Tanaka et al. is correct, the Examiner does not rely upon Tanaka et al. as curing the above-noted deficiency of Ichihara as applied to claim 1, from which claim 15 depends. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination does not suggest the features of claim 15.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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